

- (ii2) optionally coating said pellets of step (ii1) with a third subcoat, and
- (ii3) optionally coating said pellets of step (ii1) or (ii2) with an overcoat.

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is presented to place the application in proper form for examination and to eliminate multiple dependency from the present claims. No new matter has been added. Early examination and favorable consideration of the above-identified application is earnestly solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,  
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By: Kent H Cheng  
Kent H. Cheng  
Reg. No. 33,849  
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210  
New York, N.Y. 10176  
(212) 687-2770

29 December 2005